BRITISH COLUMBIA

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Population

- **During the first quarter of 2002, BC gained an estimated 7,867 persons as a result of net migration from all sources.** This compares to a similar increase of 8,149 in the first quarter of last year. Strong international migration was the major reason for the population influx in both quarters. Net international migration to the province was slightly lower than in the first quarter of last year, with a net inflow of 10,282 persons.

  Source: BC Stats

- **British Columbia's population grew 0.9% during the twelve-month period ending April 1st.** The Canadian population also grew 0.9% on an annual basis. Among the provinces, Alberta (+1.8%) and Ontario (+1.4%) continued to post the strongest gains, while Newfoundland (-0.5%) and Saskatchewan (-0.6%) saw their population shrink. Nunavut was the fastest-growing region in the country, with a population gain of 4.6% in the first quarter.

  Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **The number of British Columbians receiving regular employment insurance (EI) benefits fell 0.4% (seasonally adjusted) between March and April, dropping to 64,250.** The decline followed a national trend which saw the number of regular EI recipients fall 3.1%, to just over half a million (531,830). Among the regions, only Alberta (+2.3%, to 30,820) and the territories (+1.4% in Yukon and +4.1% in NWT/Nunavut) posted increases.

  Source: Statistics Canada

TV and Radio Broadcasters

- **Subscriptions are now the second-biggest source of revenues for Canadian TV broadcasters, generating revenues of $1.0 billion in 2001.** The remainder of the $4.5 billion of industry revenues came from sales of air time ($2.6 billion), grants ($0.7 billion) and other sources ($0.3 billion). In 1998, subscription revenues accounted for just $0.6 billion of the $3.8 billion revenues received by the industry.

  Source: SC, Catalogue 56-001-XIE

- **Radio broadcasting is making a comeback.** In 1997, the Canadian industry's profit margin (before interest and taxes) surpassed 10%, and it has been growing in every year since then. Private radio broadcasters in BC and the north earned revenues of $160.9 million in 2001, up from $157.8 million in the previous year. While the industry had a net income of $8.5 million before taxes, only 35 of the 90 units reporting showed profits. Nationally, 283 units reported profits and 243, losses, in 2001.

  Source: SC, Catalogue 56-001-XIE

Too far to go to university?

- **During the latter half of the 1990s, high school students who lived beyond commuting distance from a university (more than 80 km away) were less likely than other students to attend these institutions.** Even when differences in family income, parental education, gender and province were taken into account, students who lived within commuting distance were twice as likely to go to university as those living farther away. Among low-income families, the ratio was 4.4 to 1. One in five Canadians lives beyond commuting distance of a university, including 52% of Saskatchewan residents, and 42% of those living in Newfoundland/Labrador.

  Source: SC, The Daily

Teacher Workload and Stress

- **During the summer of 2000, a quarter of BC teachers took holidays for no more than two**

Report **Education & Labour Market Pathways of BC Youth**

Did you know...

If you live in Victoria or Vancouver, you have a low-to-moderate chance of being bitten by mosquitoes on this holiday weekend. According to the latest 3-day mosquito forecaster, the pesky critters are most likely to get you on Sunday.

of the nine weeks when school was not in session. Over a third took no more than three weeks of holidays during the summer. On average, teachers used about 58% of their summer vacation to relax. About 7% of teachers spent part of the summer teaching summer school, 17% worked at a job other than teaching, 22% taught or did other paid work and 2% held another job and taught summer school. One in six teachers spent part of the summer in the classroom, learning new skills for the school term. More than 85% of teachers reported that their work resulted in fatigue. *Source: SC, Catalogue 81-003*

Family Violence

- **From 1974 to 2000, nearly 2,600 Canadians–2,000 women and 594 men–were murdered by a spouse or partner.** During this period, the spousal homicide rate for women fell from 16.5 to 6.3 victims per million couples. For males, the rate dropped less dramatically, going from 4.4 to 2.0. The incidence of spousal homicide is highest in the prairies, led by Manitoba where the rate averaged 16.1 women and 6.1 men per million couples during the period from 1974 to 2000. Saskatchewan (14.4 women and 7.1 men) and Alberta (14.0 women and 5.4 men) were not far behind. BC also had a relatively high incidence of spousal homicide, with 12.8 female victims and 4.6 male victims per million couples during this period. The national average rate was 11.1 for women and 3.4 for men.

  Source: SC, Catalogues 85-224-XIE & 85-002, Vol 22 #5

- **Age and marital status is a big factor in spousal homicides.** Between 1991 and 2000, young women (aged 15 to 24) who were separated from their spouses were more than ten times as likely (113.4 per million separated spouses) to be murdered as separated women aged 55 or more (9.5). There was a history of domestic violence in two-thirds of the cases of spousal homicide in 2000, up from 53% at the beginning of the 1990s. The accused had a criminal record in over half of the cases.

  Source: SC, Catalogue 85-002, Vol 22 #5

- **Thirty-one of the 55 Canadian children who were murdered in 2000 were killed by members of their families.** All but two of the children were killed by a parent: 14 by their fathers, 5 by stepfathers, and 10 by their mothers. Younger children were more likely to be killed by their mothers, while teens were more likely to die at the hands of their fathers. Strangulation, suffocation or drowning (27%), beating (25%) or shooting (20%) were the most common causes of death.

  Five percent of murdered infants died of Shaken Baby Syndrome. Between 1997 and 2000, this was the highest cause of death for infants killed by family members (36%). Other infants were strangled or drowned (29%), beaten (21%), stabbed (4%) or died of exposure (2%), poisoning (2%), shooting (2%), smoke inhalation/burns (2%) or from other causes (2%).

  Source: SC, Catalogue 85-224

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy surged ahead 0.8% (seasonally adjusted) between March and April, picking up speed after posting slower growth (+0.2%) in the previous month.** Both goods (+1.6%) and service (+0.4%) industries advanced. In the goods sector, all industries except construction (-0.8%) saw strong growth, ranging from +0.6% in mining and oil & gas extraction to +3.4% in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. Service industries had a more spotty record. Wholesale trade (+2.0%), transportation and warehousing (+1.8%) and the accommodation and food services (+0.9%) industries made strong gains, with weaker increases seen in the rest of the sector. GDP in public administration contracted 1.8%.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canada's composite leading indicator slowed in May, increasing 0.7% (seasonally adjusted) after posting gains of 1.2% in April and 1.3% in March.** Financial indicators were weak, but all other components of the index increased in May. Growth in the housing index moderated, falling to 0.3% after peaking at 5.2% in January, a level that was not sustainable over the longer term. *Source: SC, The Daily*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database (www.statcan.ca); otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

June 28, 2002 *Infoline Report:* **Pathways of B.C. Youth**

Contact: Accountability Branch, Ministry of Advanced Education, (250) 952-6776
Originally published in *Labour Force Statistics*, May, 2002. Annual Subscription $60 + GST.

Educational and Labour Market Pathways of B.C. Youth, Aged 18 to 20

Introduction . . . The first results from the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS), a new longitudinal survey from Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada, were released in January 2002 in the report *"At a Crossroads—First Results for the 18 to 20-Year-Old Cohort of the Youth in Transition Survey."* The report provides some initial provincial estimates of educational participation and attainment and information on transitions from high school to post-secondary education and work. The report focuses primarily on national trends, though some provincial results are available. Since the age 18 to 20 cohort is examined, it needs to be recognized that the high school "dropout" (or non-completion rates) and post-secondary participation rates for this cohort will continue to change as the group moves into their early twenties.

Youth aged 18 to 20 are in transition . . . Some are in the final stages of completing high school, many are engaged in post secondary programs, while others have left the education system altogether. Figure 1 shows the post-high school status of 18 to 20 year-olds by province. They are divided into five categories: high school dropouts with no post-secondary education (PSE), high school graduates with no PSE, post-secondary continuers, post-secondary graduates, and post-secondary leavers who began a post-secondary program but left before graduating. Almost 98 per cent of the latter three "post-secondary" groups are those with high school completion.

In Canada, as of December 1999, over 62 per cent of 18 to 20 year-olds who were no longer in high school had gone on to pursue some post-secondary education or training after high school. Quebec and the Atlantic provinces had above-average post-secondary participation while Ontario and the Western provinces (which had stronger labour market conditions) had participation rates below the national average. The PSE system in Quebec is significantly different from the rest of the provinces in Canada. A number of secondary students in Quebec graduate following grade 11 and enroll in CEGEPs (Collège d'enseignement général et professionel, Quebec's version of general and vocational colleges) for one or two years prior to entering either university or the labour force. This has the effect of elevating the PSE participation rate for Quebec relative to other provinces when looking at youth aged 18 to 20.

Figure 1: Education Status of 18 to 20 Year-Olds Who Were No Longer in High School as of Dec 1999, by Province

	High School Dropouts, no PSE (%)	*High school Graduates, no PSE (%)*	*Post-Secondary Continuers (%)*	*Post-Secondary Graduates (%)*	*Post-Secondary Leavers (%)*	*Total PSE (%)*
Canada	**11.8**	**26.0**	**52.2**	**4.3**	**5.7**	**62.2**
British Columbia	11.2	30.6	50.5	3.5	4.2	58.2
Alberta	14.9	34.6	42.1	3.5	4.9	50.5
Saskatchewan	8.0	34.5	46.4	4.7	6.4	57.5
Manitoba	15.3	29.4	44.4	4.9	6.0	55.3
Ontario	10.1	35.0	48.7	2.0	4.2	54.9
Quebec	14.3	7.6	62.3	7.6	8.2	78.1
Nova Scotia	11.0	18.6	57.8	5.0	7.6	70.4
New Brunswick	8.8	28.6	50.1	7.4	5.1	62.6
Prince Edward Island	11.7	26.0	51.2	7.0	4.1	62.3
Newfoundland	9.7	23.6	54.3	4.0	8.4	66.7

Education Status By Gender . . . As noted in Figure 2, about 29 per cent of men and 23 per cent of women aged 18 to 20 in Canada were high school graduates who had not gone on to post-secondary education as of December 1999. Just over half of men and two-thirds of women were enrolled or had participated in post-secondary education. This trend holds true for all provinces with women much less likely to drop out of high school, and more likely to pursue post-secondary education or training. The gap in post-secondary participation between men and women is particularly wide in Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Figure 2: Education Status of 18 to 20 Year Olds Who Were No Longer in High School as of December 1999, by Gender

	High School Dropouts		High School Graduates, no PSE		Post-secondary Continuers, Graduates, Leavers	
	Men (%)	*Women (%)*	*Men (%)*	*Women (%)*	*Men (%)*	*Women (%)*
Canada	**14.7**	**9.1**	**28.6**	**23.4**	**56.7**	**67.5**
British Columbia	14.5	8.0	33.2	28.1	52.3	63.9
Alberta	17.5	12.3	35.5	33.7	47.0	54.0
Saskatchewan	10.5	5.4	37.5	31.6	52.0	63.0
Manitoba	16.4	14.2	33.2	25.9	50.4	59.7
Ontario	11.5	8.8	38.3	31.8	50.2	59.4
Quebec	18.7	9.8	9.6	5.6	71.5	84.6
Nova Scotia	15.9	6.1	23.3	14.0	60.8	79.9
New Brunswick	11.4	6.3	35.8	21.6	52.8	71.3
Prince Edward Island	15.2	8.1	27.0	25.0	57.8	66.9
Newfoundland	14.0	5.2	23.7	23.5	62.3	71.3

Comparison of High School Dropout Rates 1991 and 1999 . . . Comparing the Youth in Transition Survey to the 1991 School Leavers Survey, Figure 3 shows that the high school dropout rate for 20 year-old youth had declined by one-third during the 1990s, from 18 per cent in 1991 to 12 per cent in 1999. Almost every province experienced substantial declines. The Atlantic provinces (except P.E.I.) saw the largest declines in high school dropout rates, going from among the highest provincial rates in 1991 to among the lowest rates in 1999.

In 1999, the high school dropout rate among 20 year-old men was much higher than for young women (14.7 per cent compared to 9.2 per cent). Figure 3 shows the dropout rate of men and women by province. Overall dropout rates were highest in P.E.I., Quebec and Manitoba, about average in Alberta, B.C., Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, and well below the national average in New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan. The spread between the dropout rate for men and women is significant in most provinces except Manitoba.

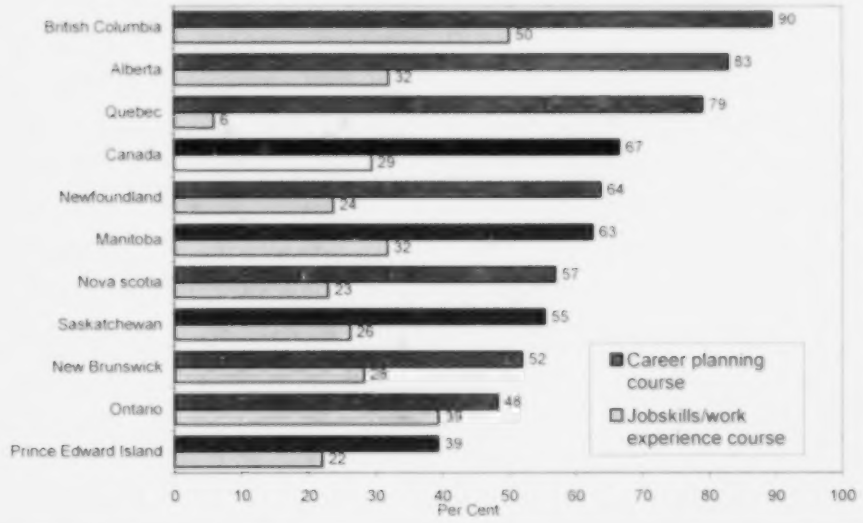
Figure 3: Comparison of High School Dropout Rates Among 20 Year Olds, 1991 and 1999

	School Leavers Survey 1991(%)			*Youth in Transition Survey 1999 (%)*		
	Total	*Men*	*Women*	*Total*	*Men*	*Women*
Canada	**18**	**22**	**14**	**12.0**	**14.7**	**9.2**
B.C.	16	17	14	12.9	16.7	8.9
Alberta	14	16	12	12.5	13.8	11.1
Sask.	16	16	16	7.3	9.9	4.5
Manitoba	19	20	18	14.8	15.7	13.9
Ontario	17	22	10	9.5	11.2	7.8
Quebec	22	26	18	16.0	19.9	12.0
N.S.	22	29	13	10.1	14.5	5.0
N.B.	20	23	16	7.6	11.7	3.7
PEI	25	33	17	16.4	22.3	9.2
Nfld	24	29	19	10.5	15.2	5.7

Second-Chance Education . . . . In 1999, 8.9 per cent of 20 year-old high school dropouts were enrolled in or had completed some type of post-secondary education. It is important to account for this additional education because new skills, knowledge and credentials obtained by dropouts would have a positive impact on their employment opportunities. Also, the high school dropout rate is fluid, decreasing over time as individuals pursue second-chance high school completion opportunities in the education system. Often these "mature" students will finish off their high school completion and then embark upon post-secondary education or training. Future results from the Youth in Transition Survey will be able to examine these less traditional routes to post-secondary education and training by individuals in their twenties.

Career Planning . . . Opportunities to learn about the world of work and the range of career possibilities in further education and training varies greatly between provinces. Overall for Canada, about two-thirds of 18 to 20 year-olds who were no longer in high school as of December 1999 had taken a course in career planning while in high school. Those least likely to have done so were high school dropouts. Participation in such courses was highest in British Columbia (89.5 per cent), Alberta (82.9 per cent) and Quebec (79.1 per cent). British Columbia also ranked first in the percentage of youth aged 18 to 20 who had taken a job-skills course in high school. These differences are illustrated in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Percentage of 18 to 20 Year-Olds Who had Taken Career Planning or Job-Skills Courses in High School, as of December 1999



Labour Market Participation . . .

Labour market participation status varies based on education status and attainment (see Figure 5). As would be expected, those continuing in high school or PSE had the highest rates of part-time employment and the highest proportion of individuals not working. Rates for full-time employment were highest for 18 to 20 year-olds who had completed a post-secondary program. Among those not engaged in any schooling, the proportion of those not working (those unemployed and those not in the labour force) was highest for high school dropouts with no PSE (22.5 per cent).

Figure 5: Labour Market Status of 18 to 20 Year-Olds, Canada, as of December 1999

	High School			Post-Secondary Education		
	High School Continuers (%)	*High School Dropouts, no PSE (%)*	*High school Graduates, no PSE (%)*	*Post-Secondary Graduates (%)*	*Post- Secondary Leavers (%)*	*Post-Secondary Continuers (%)*
Employed Full-time	10.0	59.3	51.1	63.1	58.2	11.4
Employed Part-time	53.2	18.2	34.3	22.2	22.8	53.8
Not Working	36.7	22.5	14.6	14.6	19.0	34.3

Infoline

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/02	% change on one year ago
BC	4,118.1	0.9
Canada	31,260.4	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2001	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	130,396	2.2
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	125,534	0.9
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	30,648	-0.1
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,177	0.8
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Apr	2,873	-1.9
Merchandise Exports (raw) Apr	2,553	-17.9
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Apr	3,325	7.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	May '02	% change on one year ago
BC	118.1	2.2
Canada	118.6	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	May '02	% change on one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,145	1.5
Employed - BC	1,942	-1.3
Unemployed - BC	203	39.4
		May '01
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	9.5	6.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.7	7.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 26/02	Jun 27/01
Prime Business Rate	4.25	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.55	6.70
- 5 year	7.25	7.75
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 26/02	Jun 27/01
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.5207	1.5169
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6583	0.6594
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	May '02	% change on one year ago
BC	670.27	3.2
Canada	650.33	2.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2001 Provincial Economic Accounts

On our Internet Site

The Economic Accounts framework views the provincial economy through the lens of the rigorous methodology endorsed by international organizations and Statistics Canada. Though our analysis and preparation is not yet complete, over the next week interested readers will find a growing array of updates on this data at:

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/bcea/bcea.htm

Released this week by BC STATS

- Small Business Quarterly, First Quarter, 2002
- Exports, April 2002
- Earnings and Employment Trends, May 2002
- Migration Highlights, First Quarter, 2002
- Business Indicators, June 2002
- Current Statistics, June 2002

Next week

- No subscription releases

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